

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment to the Drawings

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dicran Halajian on June 22, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Figures 1-6 have been replaced in their entirety with the attached drawings.

These replacement drawings will be printed on any patent issued for this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 2 & 4-21 are allowed over the prior art of record.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record alone or in combination fails to teach or suggest:

in claim 1, a method for driving an actuator, the method comprising the act of *changing electrical damping of the actuator by selectively activating at least one switch, in response to a control signal from a controller, for switching in or out an electrical damping element providing a negative resistance, wherein the electrical damping element is connected in series with the controller and the actuator;*

in claim 8 (claims 19 & 21 have similar allowable limitations), an actuator driver circuit comprising: *a negative resistance including an input resistor, a first resistor and a*

second resistor; and at least one switch for selectively connecting the input resistor to the first resistor or the second resistor in response to a control signal from a controller; and

in claim 9 (claim 12 has similar allowable limitations), an actuator driver circuit for actuating an actuator having a first terminal and a second terminal, the actuator driver circuit comprising a drive signal source connected to the first terminal of the actuator, and an electrical damping element having a negative resistance connected between the second terminal of the actuator and ground, wherein the first terminal is configured to receive the drive signal and is different from the second terminal.

Claims 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 13-18 & 20 are dependent upon allowed base claims.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Vincent Agustin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7567. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrea Wellington can be reached on (571) 272-4483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Peter Vincent Agustín/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627